

USPS AG 642-HCL
101769-62
3163-SI-011**REMARKS****Amendments to the Claims**

As claims 13-18 were previously indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form, the applicants have amended claim 1 to incorporate all of the non-optional elements of claim 13. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the broader subject matter in a divisional application.

Claim 2 has been cancelled as it is outside the scope of claim 1 as amended.

Both the Examiner and the applicants overlooked the fact that former claim 14 did not further limit claim 13 and should have been objected to as being a duplicate claim. As such claim 14 has been cancelled. The dependency of claim 15 has been amended to address this cancellation.

Prior Art Rejections

It is believed that the amendments to the claims render the prior art rejections moot.

Closing

Applicants also believe that this application is in condition for allowance. However, should any issue(s) of a minor nature remain, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned at telephone number (212) 808-0700 so that the issue(s) might be promptly resolved.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that the foregoing Amendment under 37 CFR § 1.116 (6 pages total) is being facsimile transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office on the date indicated below:

Date: 27 May 2004

By: Agata Glinska
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